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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/619,890	07/20/2000	Takashi Aizawa	1232-4635	2807

7590

12/24/2003

Morgan & Finnegan LLP  
345 Park Avenue  
New York, NY 10154

EXAMINER
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WISDAHL, ERIC D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2615

DATE MAILED: 12/24/2003

6

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

09/619,890

**Applicant(s)**

AIZAWA, TAKASHI

**Examiner**

Eric D Wisdahl

**Art Unit**

2615

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-52 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-52 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: .

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Election/Restrictions*

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1 – 7, 41 and 47, drawn to receiving the set value, from either the unit or an external unit and setting the set value including a set value which can only be set from an external unit, classified in class 348, subclass 207.11.
- II. Claims 8 – 20, 42, 43, 48 and 49, drawn to the display of information relating to set values having been set by either a the unit or an external unit including displaying that a set value cannot be displayed or that the set value has been set by the external unit, classified in class 348, subclass 333.02.
- III. Claims 21 – 28, 44 and 50, drawn to the acceptance or rejection of a set value from an external unit based on the set value which is to be set either corresponding to a mechanical display (or one which is displayed as a symbol on the body or on a switch which is mechanically manipulated) or some other set value, classified in class 348, subclass 373.
- IV. Claims 29 – 40, 45, 46, 51 and 52, drawn to the operation and storage of two tables corresponding to set values received from either the unit itself or an external unit, classified in class 348, subclass 211.99.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

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Inventions I, II, III and IV are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable.

In the instant case, invention I has separate utility such as enabling a set value which can only be set from an external apparatus, such as fractional values or a parameter not accessible from the graphical user interface. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

In the instant case, invention II has separate utility such as allowing the display of additional information informing the user that the display cannot display the correct set value or that the set value which is displayed was set from an external apparatus, thus allowing the user to have more knowledge of how and where the set values were obtained. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

In the instant case, invention III has separate utility such as allowing the user to correctly know the set value by showing a set value on a non-transmutable material, such as an icon on the surface of the camera body or on the surface of a knob or switch and further not allowing an external unit to change such a set value (thus sparing the user confusion of having a set value shown on the unit but changed by an external apparatus). See MPEP § 806.05(d).

In the instant case, invention IV has separate utility such as showing the data structure for processing set values from the unit and an external unit in two separate tables and upon an executable operation executing the operation in accordance with one of the two tables depending on which of the unit's, either the unit itself or the external unit, the executable operation was input from. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

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Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

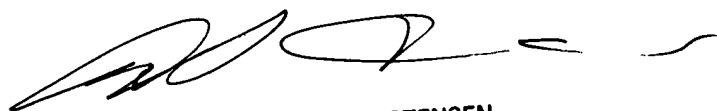
Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eric D Wisdahl whose telephone number is (703) 305-4915. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 - 6:00 Mon-Thur every other Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Christensen can be reached on (703) 308-9644. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 308-5399.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the customer service representative whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

Edw



ANDREW CHRISTENSEN  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600